

Spill Reporting

Release

A release is any spilling, leaking, pumping, pouring, emitting, emptying, discharging, injecting, escaping, leaching, dumping, or disposing into the environment that is not permitted or authorized by a regulatory agency.

Reporting Requirements

All significant releases or threatened releases of a hazardous material, including oil, require emergency notification by owners, operators, persons in charge, and employers to government agencies.

In addition to releases or threatened releases of hazardous substances to the air, soil, or water, the following specific releases must be reported:

- Discharges or threatened discharges of oil into marine waters or on any waters of the state
- Any spill or other release of one barrel or more of petroleum products at a tank facility
- Discharges of any hazardous substances or sewage, into or on any waters of the state
- Discharges that may threaten or impact water quality
- Hazardous liquid pipeline releases and every rupture, explosion or fire involving a pipeline.
- Employee exposures resulting in injuries
- Leaking underground storage tanks
- Hazardous waste releases

Laws and Regulations

State law: Handlers, any employees, authorized representatives, agents or designees of handlers shall, upon discovery, immediately report any release or threatened release of hazardous materials (California Health and Safety Code Section 25507).

Federal law: Notification is required for all releases that equal or exceed federal reporting quantities. The Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) requires owners and operators to report. The Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act " (CERCLA), 42 USC S9601 et seq (Public Law 92-500), commonly referred to as "Superfund," requires the person in charge to report.

Notification Requirements

State notification requirements for a spill or threatened release include:

- Identity of the caller
- Location, date and time of spill, release, or threatened release
- Substance and quantity involved
- Chemical name, if known (this is very important if the chemical is extremely hazardous)
- Description of what happened

Federal notification requires additional information for spills (CERCLA chemicals) that exceed federal reporting requirements, which include:

- Medium or media impacted by the release.
- Time and duration of the release.
- Proper precautions to take.
- Known or anticipated health risks.
- Name and phone number for more information.

Agencies to be Notified

- The Department is notified via 911. The Health Hazardous Materials Division's Emergency Response Coordinator can be contacted at (323) 890-4317.
- The Participating Agency (PA) is notified in the event of an underground storage tank release:
 - The LA County Department of Public Works can be contacted at (626) 458-3517
 - In Burbank, contact the City Fire Department at (818) 238-3391
 - In Pasadena, contact the City Fire Department at (626) 744-4657
 - In Torrance, contact the City Fire Department at (310) 618-2973
- The State of California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES) Warning Center is notified at (800) 852-7550 or (916) 845-8911.
- The National Response Center requires notification at (800) 424-8802 if the spill equals or exceeds Federal CERCLA Reportable Quantities.

What other agencies may require notification?

- Cal OSHA requires notification for serious injuries or harmful exposures to workers from hazardous materials. Cal OSHA can be contacted at one of the five LA County field offices including:
 - Los Angeles (213) 576-7451
 - Monrovia (626) 256-7913
 - Torrance (310) 516-3734
 - Van Nuys (818) 901-5403
 - West Covina (626) 472-0046
- The United States Coast Guard requires notification of spills to waterways. Call the Los Angeles/ Long Beach Marine Safety Office at (310) 732-7380.
- Oil spills may be reported to the West Coast Oil Spill hotline at (800) OILS-911.

Written Reporting Requirements

The State OES may require written follow-up Reports for releases subject to CERCLA and reportable quantities of extremely hazardous substances. Reports must be submitted as soon as is practical and no later than 30 days. Other State and Federal agencies may require a written report depending on the law.

For more information, see [Links](#).